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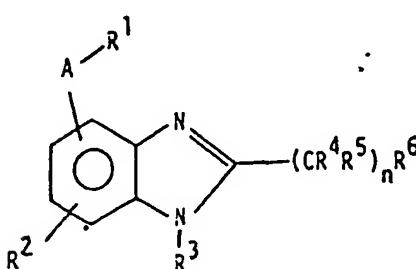
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Claims for the following Contracting States: ES + GR.

⑳ Novel derivatives of benzimidazoles active as anti-ulcer agents.

㉑ Novel compounds of the general formula I

R<sup>1</sup> represents aryl, cycloalkyl or an adamantyl group.  
R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy or halogen.  
R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, phenalkyl or a cykloalkyl-alkyl group.  
R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen or alkyl.  
R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen, alkyl, aryl or a hydroxylgroup when n = 1-6 or an amino when n = 0.  
A represents an alkylene, optionally connected to, or interrupted by an optionally substituted heteroatom selected from O, S and NR.  
n is 0-6.



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processes for its preparation, pharmaceutical compositions containing such compounds as the active ingredient and the use of the compounds in medicine, especially for use in inhibiting gastric acid secretion and in the treatment of gastrointestinal inflammatory diseases.

## Description

Novel derivatives of benzimidazoles active as anti-ulcer agentsField of the invention

5 The object of the present invention is to provide novel compounds, and therapeutically acceptable salts thereof, which inhibit exogenously or endogenously stimulated gastric acid secretion and are thus useful as anti-ulcer agents. The compounds also provide gastrointestinal cytoprotective effects and can be used in the prevention of peptic ulcer. The new compounds are more short acting than compounds prior known.

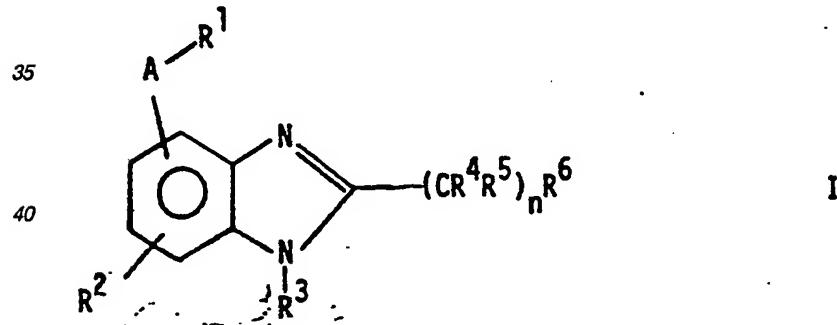
10 The present invention relates to the use of the compounds of the invention or therapeutically acceptable salts thereof, for inhibiting gastric acid secretion as well as providing gastrointestinal cytoprotective effects in mammals and man. In a more general sense, the compounds of the invention may be used for prevention and treatment of gastrointestinal inflammatory diseases in mammals and man, including e.g. gastritis, gastric ulcer, and duodenal ulcer. Furthermore, the compounds may be used for prevention and treatment of other gastrointestinal disorders, where cytoprotective and/or gastric antisecretory effect is desirable e.g. in patients 15 with gastrinomas, in patients with acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding, and in patients with a history of chronic and excessive ethanol consumption. The invention also relates to pharmaceutical compositions containing at least one compound of the invention, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, as active ingredient. In a further aspect, the invention relates to processes for preparation of such new compounds.

Prior art

20 Benzimidazole derivatives intended for inhibiting gastric acid secretion are disclosed in the British patent specifications 1 500 043 and 1 525 958, in the US patent 4 182 766, in the European patent specification 0 005 129, and in the Belgian patent specification 890 024. Benzimidazole derivatives proposed for use in the treatment of prevention of special gastrointestinal inflammatory disease are disclosed in the European patent application with publication no. 0 045 200. The compounds disclaimed in the definition of the compounds with 25 the general formula I are described as intermediates in European patent application 178 413. The last mentioned European patent application describes also other similar compounds for use in the treatment of inflammatory conditions, e.g. rheumatism and arthritis.

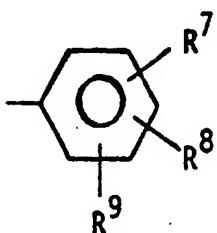
The invention

30 It has been found that compounds of the general formula I



chains, and are for example methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl, sec.butyl or tert.butyl. Halogen is preferably chloro, bromo or fluoro.

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> representing aryl, are preferably a carbocyclic group, suitably of the formula II



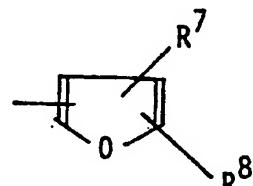
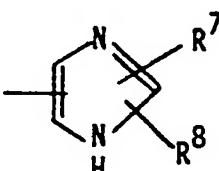
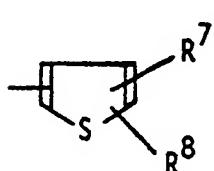
II

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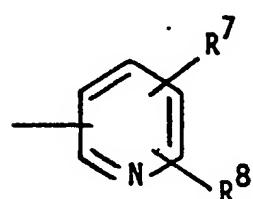
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in which each of R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> independently represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl having up to 6 carbon atoms, e.g. methyl, a lower alkoxy having up to 6 carbon atoms, e.g. methoxy, or halogen preferably chloro or fluoro. Alternatively R<sup>1</sup> and/or R<sup>8</sup> may represent a heterocyclic aryl group, suitably

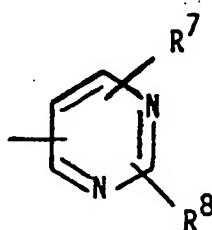


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or



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in which R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> have the meanings give above.

A representing an alkylene, optionally connected to, or interrupted by an optionally substituted hetero atom has preferably up to 6 carbon atoms.

According to the invention, A may represent any of the following

i) -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>, wherein m is 1-6

ii) -X-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-, wherein m is as defined above and X is O, S or NR, wherein R is as defined above

iii) -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>x</sub>-X-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>y</sub>-, wherein x and y are integers with a sum of 1-6 and X is as defined above or

iv) alkenylene with up to 2-6 carbon atoms. Examples of alkenylene groups are -CH=CH- and -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH=CH-.

The following compounds are excluded from the scope of this application.

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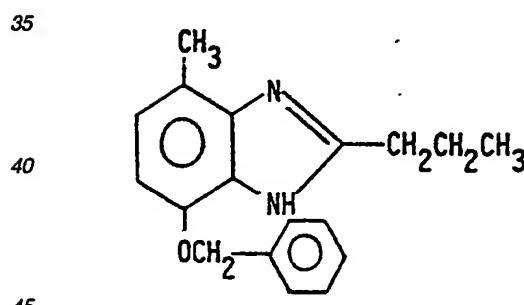
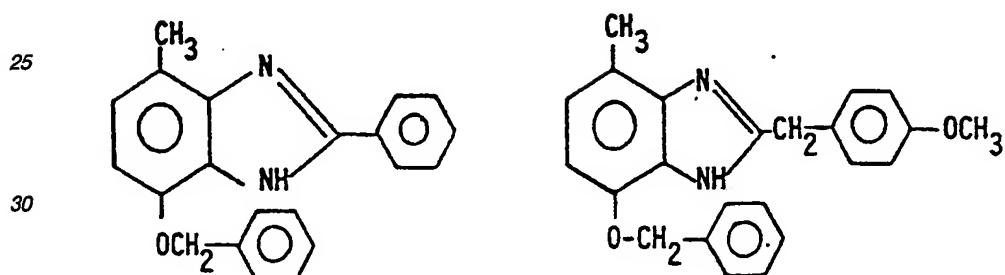
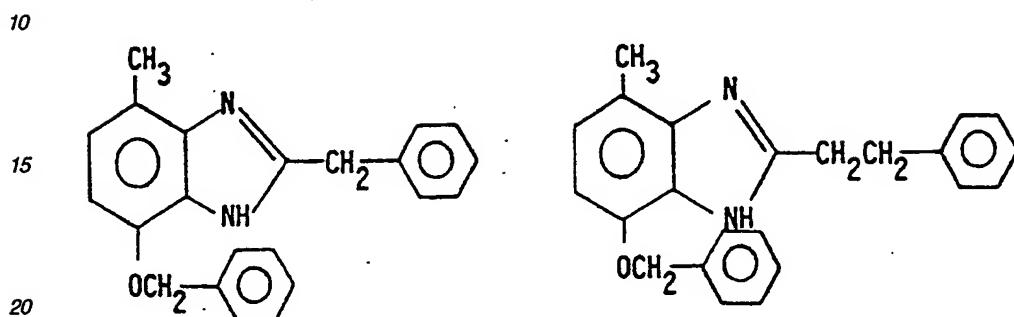
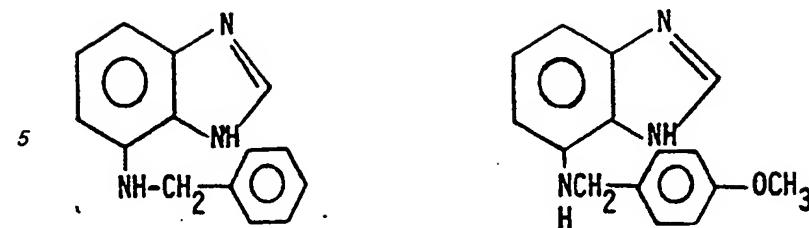
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Both the pure enantiomers, racemic mixtures and unequal mixtures of the two enantiomers are within the scope of the present invention. It should be understood that all the diastereomeric forms possible (pure enantiomers or racemic mixtures) are within the scope of the invention.

Especially preferred groups of R<sup>1</sup> according to the invention are

R<sup>1</sup> representing phenyl, 2'-F-phenyl, 3'-F-phenyl, 4'-F-phenyl, 4'-Cl-phenyl, 2',4'-di-F-phenyl, 2',4'-di-Cl-phenyl and thienyl-2.

Especially preferred groups of R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are hydrogen.

Especially preferred groups of R<sup>3</sup> are hydrogen or methyl.

Especially preferred groups of R<sup>6</sup> are hydrogen, hydroxy or phenyl.

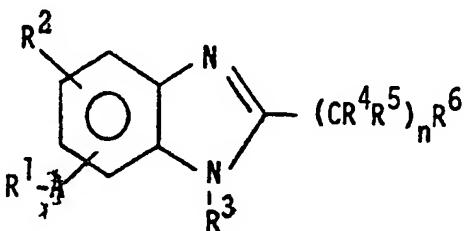
Especially preferred groups of A are 4-OCH<sub>2</sub>, 5-OCH<sub>2</sub>, 7-OCH<sub>2</sub>, 4-NHCH<sub>2</sub> and 4-OCH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>.

An especially preferred compound according to the invention is 4-benzyloxy-2-methylbenzimidazole.

Illustrative examples of compounds included in the scope of the invention are given in the examples and in the following Table 1.

Table 1

Illustrative examples of compounds included in the scope of the invention



$R^3$	$(CR^4R^5)_nR^6$	$R^2$	$A-R^1$
H	H	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>
H	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>
CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>
CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	7-OCH <sub>2</sub>
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	5-OCH <sub>2</sub>
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-NHCH <sub>2</sub>
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>
H	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>
H	CH <sub>2</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>
CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>
CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	7-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>

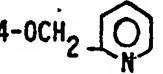
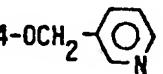
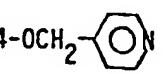
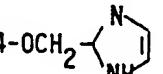
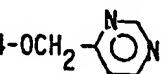
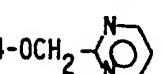
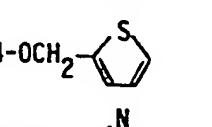
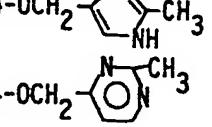
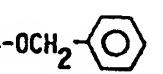
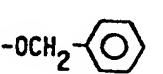
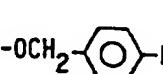
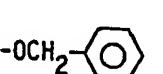
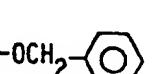
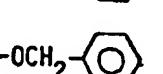
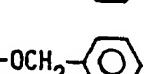
cont.

cont.

$R^3$	$(CR^4R^5)_nR^6$	$R^2$	$A-R^1$
H	H	H	5-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-CH <sub>2</sub> O- 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	5-OCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 

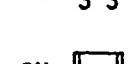
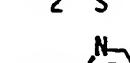
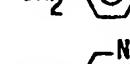
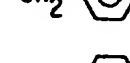
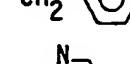
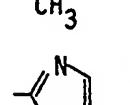
cont.

cont.

$R^3$	$(CR^4R^5)_nR^6$	$R^2$	$A-R^1$
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H		H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	4-CH <sub>3</sub>	7-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	4-Cl	7-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	5-OCH <sub>3</sub>	7-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	6-Br	7-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	4-CH <sub>3</sub>	7-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	7-CH <sub>3</sub>	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 

cont.

cont.

$R^3$	$(CR^4R^5)_nR^6$	$R^2$	$A-R^1$
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-N-CH <sub>3</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-SCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-CH <sub>2</sub> OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-CH <sub>2</sub> -  -F
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-CH=CH- 
CH <sub>3</sub>	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	H	4-CH=CHCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	C(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>3</sub>	4-Cl	7-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>2</sub> - 	7-CH <sub>3</sub>	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>2</sub> - 	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>2</sub> - 	4-Br	7-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>2</sub> - 	7-OCH <sub>3</sub>	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>2</sub> -  -OCH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> S- 
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-NHCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> - 
H		H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> - 

cont.

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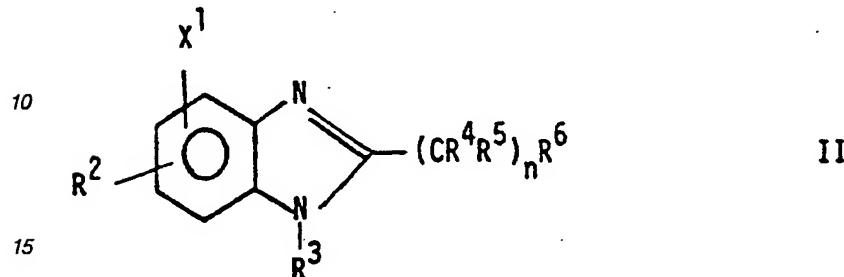
$R^3$	$(CR^4R^5)_nR^6$	$R^2$	$A-R^1$
H		H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H		H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H		H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	4-CH <sub>3</sub>	7-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	7-CH <sub>3</sub>	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	5-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	5-Cl	6-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	NH <sub>2</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-NHCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	-4-N(CH <sub>2</sub> C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> )CH <sub>2</sub> -
	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	7-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	NH(CH <sub>3</sub> )	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	5-OCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> -
	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -
H	CH <sub>3</sub>	H	4-OCH <sub>2</sub> -

Preparation

The present invention also provides processes for the manufacture of the compounds with the general formula I.

The compounds are prepared in the following way.

## 5 A. A compound of the general formula II

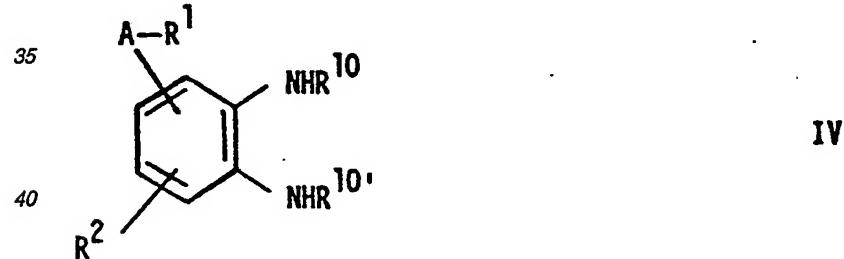


wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above is reacted with a compound of the formula III  
20 R<sup>1</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>X<sup>2</sup> III

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above, X<sup>1</sup> is -OH, -SH, or -NHR and X<sup>2</sup> is a leaving group, such as a halide, tosylxy or mesyloxy; and m is an integer 1-6 whereby a compound of the general formula I, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and n are as defined above and A is -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>, -S(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub> or -NR(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub> is obtained.

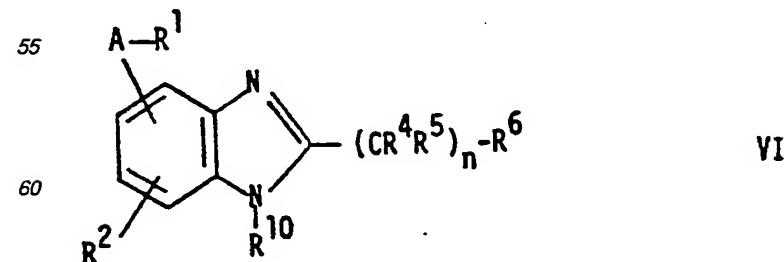
25 It is convenient to conduct this reaction in the presence of a base. The base is e.g. an alkali metal hydroxide, such as sodium hydroxide and potassium hydroxide; a sodium alcoholate, such as sodium methoxide and sodium ethoxide; and alkali metal hydride, such as sodium hydride and potassium hydride; an alkali metal carbonate, such as potassium carbonate and sodium carbonate; or an organic amine, such as triethylamine. The solvent used for the reaction is preferably alcohol, e.g. methanol or ethanol, another polar solvent such as dimethylformamide. The reaction temperature ranges usually from about 0°C to about the boiling point of the solvent used, more preferably from about 20°C to about 80°C. The reaction time ranges from about 0.2 to 30 about 24 hours, more preferably from about 0.5 to about 2 hours.

## 30 B. A compound of the general formula IV



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are as defined above, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>10'</sup> are the same or different and each is hydrogen, a lower alkyl group having up to 6 carbon atoms or a group or atom convertible to a lower alkyl group with the proviso that when one of R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>10'</sup> is a lower alkyl group or a group or atom convertible to a lower alkyl group the other of R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>10'</sup> is hydrogen  
50 is reacted with a compound of the general formula V

R<sup>6</sup>(CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>)<sub>n</sub>COR<sup>11</sup> V  
wherein R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and n are as defined above and R<sup>11</sup> is a leaving group such as halide, hydroxy, alkoxy, acyloxy or alkoxy carbonyloxy or hydrogen, whereby a compound of the general formula IV

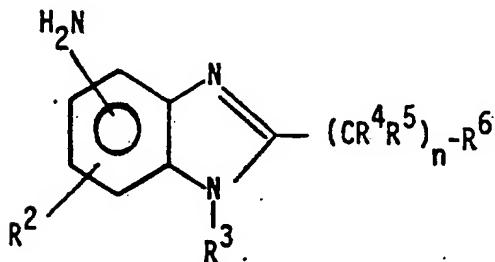


65 is formed and, if required, a nitrogen atom of the benzimidazole nucleus is alkylated and, if required, protecting.

groups are removed, to form a compound of the general formula I, and if required, a salt or solvate thereof is formed. The acyloxy, alkoxy and alkoxy carbonyloxy groups in R<sup>11</sup> have preferably 1-3 carbon atoms.

The reaction of a compound of the formula IV with a compound of the formula V is preferably effected by heating with a compound of the general formula V, wherein R<sup>11</sup> represents a leaving group. For example the compound of the formula V may be an acid, an acid chloride, an acid anhydride, including a mixed anhydride of the acid R<sup>6</sup>(CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>)<sub>n</sub>COOH and a haloformate ester. The presence of an acid catalyst, e.g. HCl, may be necessary.

C. A compound of the general formula VII

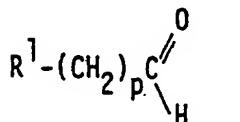


VII

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wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above is reacted with a compound of the general formula VIII

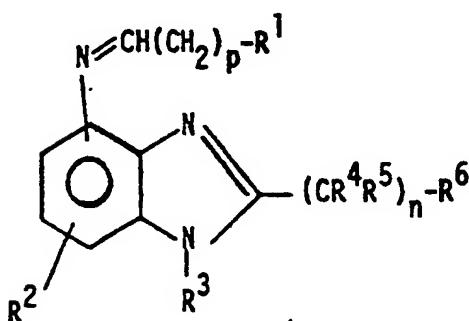


VIII

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wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above and p is an integer 0-5 to form a compound of the general formula IX

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IX

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wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above and whereafter the compound of the formula IX is hydrogenated to a compound of the general formula I, wherein A is -NR(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, n and m are as defined above.

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### EXAMPLES

Example 1.

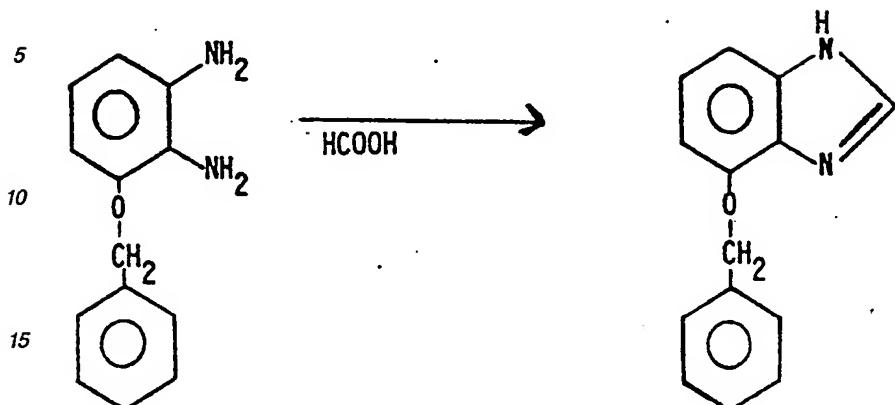
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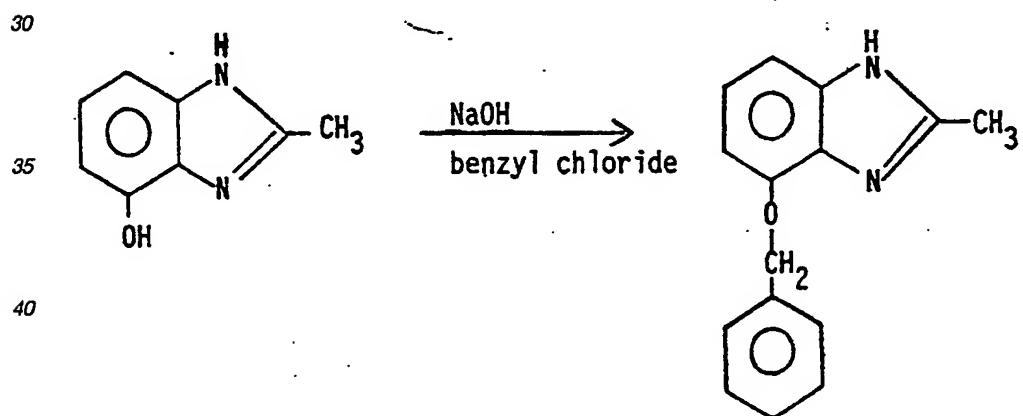
### Preparation of 4-benzylxybenzimidazole



20 A mixture of 3-benzyloxy-1,2-diaminobenzene 1.6 g (0.0073 mol) and formic acid (2.6 g, 0.057 mol) was heated to reflux for 1.5 h. The resulting mixture was then cooled, dissolved in methylene chloride, washed with 10% sodium carbonate solution, dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ) and evaporated to dryness in *vacuo*. The residue was recrystallized from acetonitrile to give the title compound in 0.75 g (46%) yield, m.p. 165–167°C.

**25 Example 2.**

### Preparation of 4-benzyloxy-2-methylbenzimidazole



45 To a stirred solution of 7.3 g (0.049 mol) 4-hydroxy-2-methylbenzimidazole in 300 ml ethanol at ambient temperature 2.0 g (0.049 mol) NaOH in 4 ml water was added dropwise. The solution was stirred for 10 min and 6.3 g (0.049 mol) benzyl chloride was then added dropwise. The reaction mixture was heated under reflux for 20 h. Upon cooling to ambient temperature the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue obtained was dissolved in methylene chloride, washed with water and dried ( $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$ ). Following filtration, methylene chloride was removed under reduced pressure to give an oil. Chromatography on silica gel and elution with methylene chloride:methanol (10:1) gave 4.3 g (0.018 mol), yield: 37% of 4-benzyloxy-2-methylbenzimidazole m.p. 119-121°C.

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## 55 Examples 3-8.

In the same manner as described above the following compounds were obtained.

### 4-benzyloxy-2-ethylbenzimidazole

mp: 78-80°C

yield: 33%

### 60 5-benzyloxy-2-methylbenzimidazole

mp: 165-165°C

yield: 17%

#### 4-(*p*-chlorobenzyl)oxy)-2-methylbenzimidazole

mp: 230-231°C

65 mp. 230-2  
yield 7%

4-(p-fluorobenzyl)oxy-2-methylbenzimidazole

mp: 203-205°C

yield: 22%

4-benzyl-2-hydroxymethylbenzimidazole

mp: 146-147°C

yield: 30%

2-methyl-4-phenylethoxybenzimidazole

mp: 176-178°C

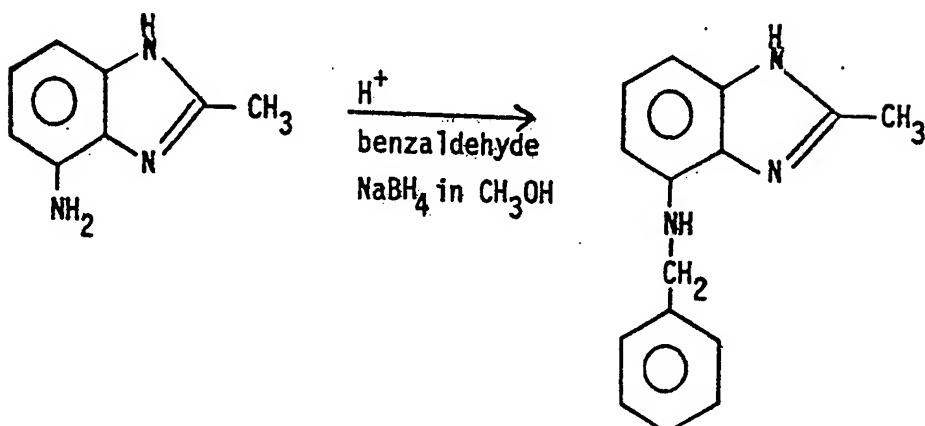
yield 15%

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Example 9.

Preparation of 4-benzylamino-2-methylbenzimidazole



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A mixture of 3.8 g (0.026 mol) 4-amino-2-methylbenzimidazole, 2.7 g (0.026 mol) benzaldehyde and 0.05 g paratoluene sulfonic acid in 250 ml toluene was refluxed and the water formed was separated during 20 h. Upon cooling the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure. The residue obtained was suspended in 150 ml methanol and 1.8 g (0.048 mol) NaBH4 was added. The mixture was stirred at room temperature for 2h and methanol was removed under reduced pressure. The residue was dissolved in methylene chloride, washed with water and dried (Na2SO4). After filtration, methylene chloride was removed under reduced pressure. Chromatography on silica gel and elution with methylene chloride:methanol (10:1) gave 0.1 g (0.00042 mol) of 4-benzylamino-2-methyl benzimidazole

NMR δ (CDCl3) 2.45 (s,3H), 4.40 (s,2H), 6.30 (dd,1H), 6.70 (dd, 1H), 6.95 (dd,1H), 6.95 (dd,1H), 7.05-7.40 (m,5H).

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Example 10.

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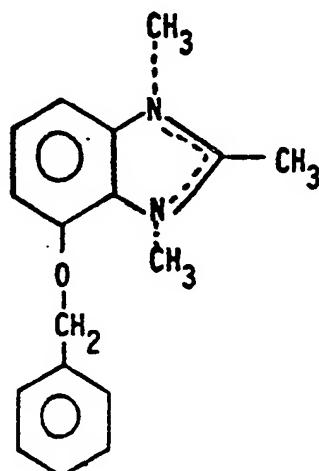
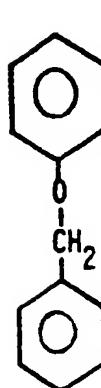
Preparation of 4-benzyloxy-1,2-dimethylbenzimidazole and  
7-benzyloxy-1,2-dimethylbenzimidazole

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To a mixture of 0.5 g (0.021 mol) 4-benzyloxy-2-methylbenzimidazole 0.71 g (0.021 mol) tetrabutylammonium hydrogen sulfate and 0.48 g (0.0033 mol) methyl iodide in 30 ml methylene chloride and 0.17 g (0.0042 mol) NaOH in 30 ml H<sub>2</sub>O was added dropwise with stirring. The mixture was heated to reflux for 2 h. Upon cooling the organic layer was separated and the volatiles were removed under reduced pressure to give an oil. The oil was suspended in ether, tetrabutylammonium iodide was filtered off and the volatiles were removed. Chromatography on silica gel and elution with methylene chloride methanol (10:1) gave 0.24 g (0.00095 mol) yield: 45% of the isomeric product 4-benzyloxy-1,2-dimethylbenzimidazole and 7-benzyloxy-1,2-dimethylbenzimidazole mp: 100-101°C.

The compounds 11-24 listed in the following Table 2 were prepared according to process A or B.

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Table 2.Summary of Examples 1-10

Process for prep.	Ex. No.	A	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	R <sup>4</sup>	R <sup>5</sup>	R <sup>6</sup>	n	yield %	Identifying data
B	1	4-O-CH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	0	46	165-167°C
A	2	4-O-CH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	37	119-121°C
	3	4-O-CH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	2	33	78-80°C
	4	5-O-CH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	17	164-165°C
	5	4-O-CH <sub>2</sub>	4'-C1-phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	7	230-231°C.
	6	4-O-CH <sub>2</sub>	4'-F-phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	22	203-205°C
	7	4-O-CH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	OH	1	3	146-147°C
	8	4-O-CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	15	176-178°C
C	9	4-NH-CH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	2	NMR
	10	{ 4-O-CH <sub>2</sub> 7-OCH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	CH <sub>3</sub> CH <sub>3</sub>	H	H	H	1}	45	100-101 (isomeric mixture)

cont.

cont.

Table 2.

Process for prep.	Ex. No.	A	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	R <sup>4</sup>	R <sup>5</sup>	R <sup>6</sup>	n	yield %	Identifying data
B	11	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	phenyl	1	2	NMR
B	12	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>	2, '4'-di-Cl- phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	33	205-207°C
B	13	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>	2, '4'-di-F- phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	27	190-192°C
B	14	5-OCH <sub>2</sub>	4'-F-phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	9	79-80°C
A	15	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>		H	H	H	H	H	1	2	155-156°C
A	16	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>	3'-F-phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	18	140°C (HCl salt)
B	17	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>	2'-F-phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	23	148°C
A	18	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	-	H	-	-	NH <sub>2</sub>	0	13	NMR
A	19	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>	cyklohexyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	23	128-130°C
A	20	4-NHCH <sub>2</sub>	cyklohexyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	2	90°C
A	21	4-N(CH <sub>2</sub> - C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> )CH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	11	NMR
A	22	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	1	6	(isomeric mixture)
		7-OCH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	C <sub>6</sub> H <sub>5</sub> CH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	1	1	NMR

cont.

cont.

Table 2.

Process for prep.	Ex. No.	A	R <sup>1</sup>	R <sup>2</sup>	R <sup>3</sup>	R <sup>4</sup>	R <sup>5</sup>	R <sup>6</sup>	n	yield %	Identifying data
A	23	4-OCH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	N(CH <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	0	20	208°C
B	24	5-OCH <sub>2</sub> CH <sub>2</sub>	phenyl	H	H	H	H	H	1	25	139°C

<sup>1</sup>H NMR-data for compounds 11, 18, 21, and 22 are given in the following Table 3.

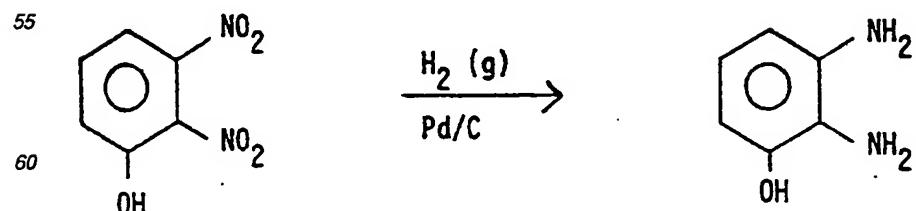
Table 3  $^1\text{H}$  NMR

5	Compound <u>No.</u>	Solvent	NMR $\delta$
10	11	$\text{CDCl}_3$	4.0 (s, 2H), 5.15 (s, 2H), 6.75 (d, 1H), 7.0-7.4 (m, 7H)
15	18	$\text{CD}_3\text{OD}$	5.25 (s, 2H), 6.8 (d, 1H), 7.05 (t, 1H), 7.35-7.45 (m, 3H), 7.6 (d, 2H)
20	21	$\text{DMSO}$	2.45 (s, 3H), 4.9 (s, 4H), 6.25 (d, 1H), $J=8\text{Hz}$ , 6.8 (m, 2H), 7.2 (m, 2H), 7.25 (s(broad), 8H)
25	22	$\text{CDCl}_3$	2.15 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 3.0 (t, 2H), 3.1 (t, 2H), 4.3 (t, 2H), 4.45 (t, 2H), 5.25 (s, 2H), 5.35 (s, 2H), 6.7 (d, 1H), 6.75 (dd, 2H), 6.85 (d, 1H), 6.9 (d, 1H), 7.0 (dd, 2H) 7.1-7.2 (m, 5H), 7.25-7.4 (m, 10H), 7.5-7.6 (m, 4H)
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45 The following examples illustrate intermediates useful in the preparation of the compounds exemplified in Examples 1-10 and Table 1.

Example I

50 Preparation of 2,3-diaminophenol



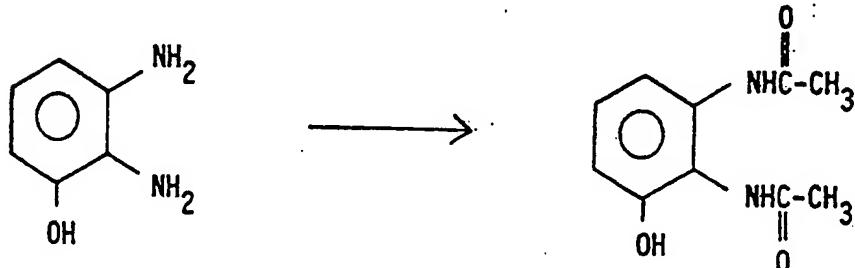
2,3-dinitrophenol (80%) 25 g (0.11 mol) was dissolved in 700 ml ethanol and 0.5 g Pd/C was added. The

mixture was hydrogenated at room temperature until the uptake of hydrogen ceased (4h). The solution was filtered (celite) in  $N_2$ -atmosphere and evaporated to dryness in *vacuo* to give the title compound as an unstable oil (18 g), which was used immediately for the next step.

Example II

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Preparation of 2,3-diacetamidophenol

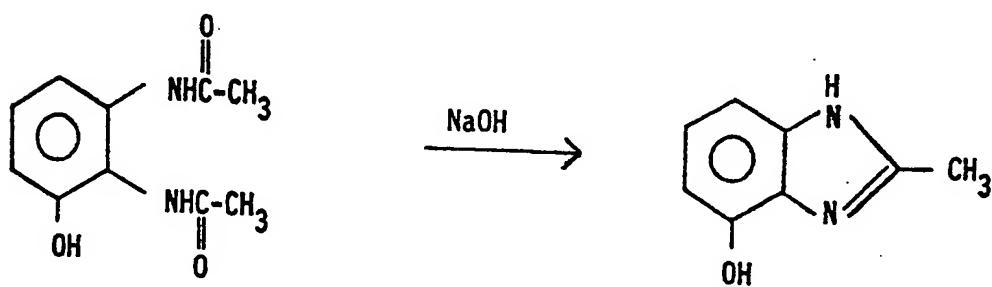


To 18 g (0.11 mol) 2,3-diaminophenol obtained according to Example I 38 ml (0.40 mol) of acetic anhydride was added. The mixture was stirred for 45 min and 50 ml ice and water were added. After stirring for 30 min the product was filtered off and dried to give (15.8 g) of the title compound.

Example III

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Preparation of 4-hydroxy-2-methylbenzimidazole



To a solution of 6.8 M NaOH 15.8 g (0.076 mol) of 2,3-diacetamidophenol was added and the mixture was heated under reflux for 2h. Upon cooling the pH of the solution was adjusted to 8.5 with 2 M HCl. The solid was filtered off, washed with water and dried to give 7.6 g of the title compound.

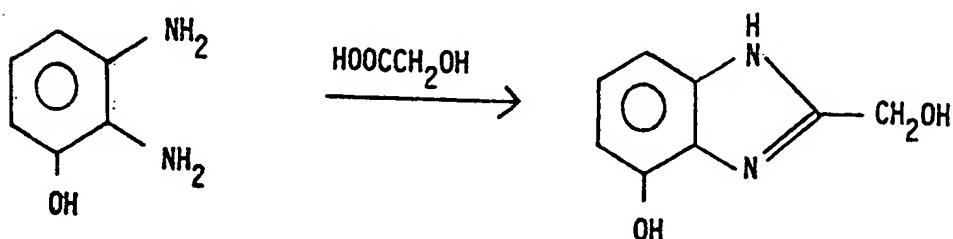
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Example IV

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Preparation of 4-hydroxy-2-hydroxymethylbenzimidazole

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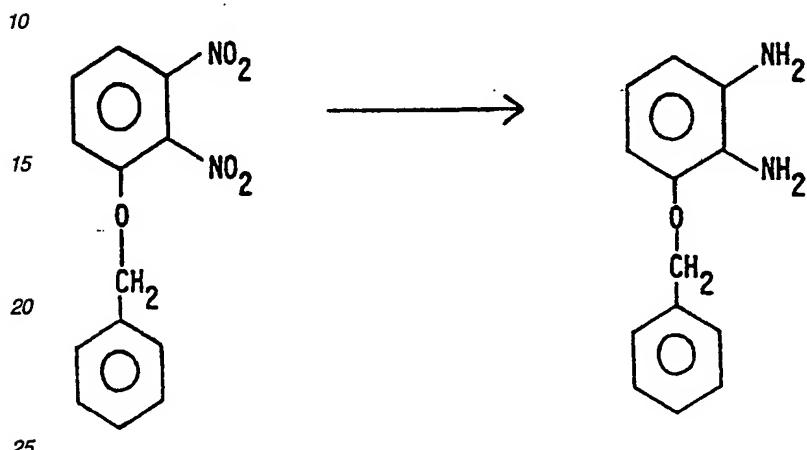
To a solution of 40 ml 4 M HCl 1.1 g (0.0087 mol) of 2,3-diaminophenol and 2 g (0.026 mol) of glycolic acid were added and the solution was heated under reflux for 20 h. Upon cooling the reaction mixture was alkalized

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with 10 M NaOH to pH 8.5. The volatiles were removed under reduced pressure and the residual oil was suspended in methanol. The suspension was filtered and evaporated to dryness in vacuo. Chromatography on silica gel and elution with methylene chloride:methanol (10:2) gave 0.78 g of the title compound.

5 Example V

Preparation of 3-benzylxy-1,2-diaminobenzene



30 To a solution of 3-benzylxy-1,2-dinitrobenzene (2 g 0.0073 mol) in 300 ml ethanol Raney-nickel (1 g) was added and the mixture was hydrogenated at room temperature and atmospheric pressure until the uptake of hydrogen ceased (30 min). The colourless solution was filtered (celite) and evaporated to dryness in vacuo to give the title compound as an unstable oil (1.6 g) which was used immediately for the next step.

35 For clinical use the compounds of the invention are formulated into pharmaceutical formulations for oral, rectal, parenteral or other mode of administration. The pharmaceutical formulation contains a compound of the invention in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The carrier may be in the form of a solid, semi-solid or liquid diluent, or a capsule. These pharmaceutical preparations are a further object of the invention. Usually the amount of active compounds is between 0.1-95% by weight of the preparation, between 0.2-20% by weight in preparations for parenteral use and between 1 and 50% by weight in preparations for oral administration.

40 In the preparation of pharmaceutical formulations containing a compound of the present invention in the form of dosage units for oral administration the compound selected may be mixed with a solid, powdered carrier, such as lactose, saccharose, sorbitol, mannitol, starch, amylopectin, cellulose derivatives, gelating, or another suitable carrier, as well as with lubricating agents such as magnesium stearate, calcium stearate, sodium steryl fumarate and polyethylene glycol waxes. The mixture is then processed into granules or pressed into tablets. An enteric coating which protects the active compound from acid degradation as long as the dosage form remains in the stomach may be wanted. The enteric coating is chosen among pharmaceutically acceptable enteric-coating materials e.g. beeswax, shellac or anionic film-forming polymers such as cellulose acetate phthalate, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose phthalate, partly methyl esterified methacrylic acid polymers and the like, if preferred in combination with a suitable plasticizer. To this coating various dyes may be added in order to distinguish among tablets or granules with different active compounds or with different amounts of the active compound present.

50 Soft gelatine capsules may be prepared with capsules containing a mixture of the active compound or compounds of the invention, vegetable oil, fat, or other suitable vehicle for soft gelatine capsules. Soft gelatine capsules may also be enteric coated as described above. Hard gelatine capsules may contain granules or enteric-coated granules of the active compound. Hard gelatine capsules may also contain the active compound in combination with a solid powdered carrier such as lactose, saccharose, sorbitol, mannitol, potato starch, corn starch, amylopectin, cellulose derivatives or gelatine. The hard gelating capsules may be enteric coated as described above.

55 Dosage units for rectal administration may be prepared in the form of suppositories which contain the active substance mixed with a neutral fat base, or they may be prepared in the form of a gelatine rectal capsule which contains the active substance in a mixture with a vegetable oil, paraffin oil or other suitable vehicle for gelatine rectal capsules, or they may be prepared in the form of a ready-made micro enema, or they may be prepared in the form of a dry micro enema formulation to be reconstituted in a suitable solvent just prior to administration.

60 Liquid preparations for oral administration may be prepared in the form of syrups or suspensions, e.g. solution or suspensions containing from 0.2% to 20% by weight of the active ingredient and the remainder consisting of sugar or sugaralcohols and a mixture of ethanol, water, glycerol, propylene glycol and polyethylene glycol. If desired, such liquid preparations may contain colouring agents, flavouring agents,

saccharine and carboxymethyl cellulose or other thickening agent. Liquid preparations for oral administration may also be prepared in the form of a dry powder to be reconstituted with a suitable solvent prior to use.

Solutions for parenteral administration may be prepared as a solution of a compound of the invention in a pharmaceutically acceptable solvent, preferably in a concentration from 0.1% to 10% by weight. These solutions may also contain stabilizing agents and/or buffering agents and may be manufactured in different unit dose ampoules or vials. Solutions for parenteral administration may also be prepared as a dry preparation to be reconstituted with a suitable solvent extemporaneously before use.

The typical daily dose of the active substance varies within a wide range and will depend on various factors such as for example the individual requirement of each patient, the route of administration and the disease. In general, oral and parenteral dosages will be in the range of 5 to 500 mg per day of active substance.

Pharmaceutical preparations containing a compound of the invention as active ingredient are illustrated in the following examples.

#### Example 11. Syrup

A syrup containing 10% (weight per volume) of active substance was prepared from the following ingredients:

4-Benzylxy-2-methylbenzimidazole 1.0 g

Sugar, powder 30.0 g

Saccharine 0.6 g

Glycerol 5.0 g

Flavouring agent 0.05 g

Ethanol 96% 5.0 g

Distilled water q.s. to a final volume of 100 ml

Sugar and saccharine were dissolved in 60 g of warm water. After cooling the acid addition salt was dissolved in the sugar solution and glycerol and a solution of flavouring agents dissolved in ethanol were added. The mixture was diluted with water to a final volume of 100 ml.

The above given active substance may be replaced with other pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts.

#### Example 12. Enteric-coated tablets

An enteric-coated tablet containing 20 mg of active compound was prepared from the following ingredients:

I 4-(p-Fluorobenzylxy)-2-methyl-benzimidazole 200 g

Lactose 700 g

Methyl cellulose 6 g

Polyvinylpyrrolidone cross-linked 50 g

Magnesium stearate 15 g

Sodium carbonate 6 g

Distilled water q.s.

II Cellulose acetate phthalate 200 g

Cetyl alcohol 15 g

Isopropanol 2000 g

Methylene chloride 2000 g

I 4-(p-Fluorobenzylxy)-2-methyl-benzimidazole, powder, was mixed with lactose and cross-linked polyvinylpyrrolidone and granulated with a water solution of methyl cellulose and sodium carbonate. The wet mass was forced through a sieve and the granulate dried in an oven. After drying the granulate was mixed with magnesium stearate. The dry mixture was pressed into tablet cores (10 000 tablets), each tablet containing 20 mg of active substance, in a tabletting machine using 6 mm diameter punches.

II A solution of cellulose acetate phthalate and cetyl alcohol in isopropanol/methylene chloride was sprayed onto the tablets I in an Accela Cota®, Manesty coating equipment. A final tablet weight of 110 mg was obtained.

#### Example 13. Solution for intravenous administration

A parenteral formulation for intravenous use, containing 4 mg of active compound per ml, was prepared from the following ingredients:

4-(p-Chlorobenzylxy)-2-methylbenzimidazole 4 g

Polyethylene glycol 400 for injection 400 g

Disodium hydrogen phosphate q.s.

Sterile water to a final volume of 1000 ml

4-(p-Chlorobenzylxy)-2-methylbenzimidazole was dissolved in polyethylene glycol 400 and 550 ml of water was added. pH of the solution was brought to pH 7.4 by adding a water solution of disodium hydrogen phosphate and water was added to a final volume of 1000 ml. The solution was filtered through a 0.22 µm filter and immediately dispensed into 10 ml sterile ampoules. The ampoules were sealed.

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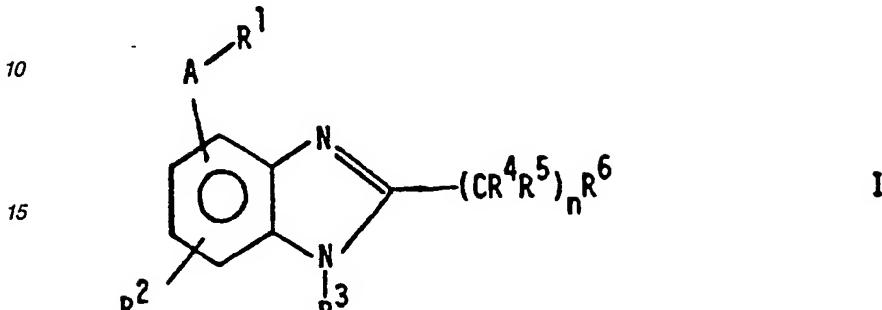
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## Claims

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1. A compound of the general formula I

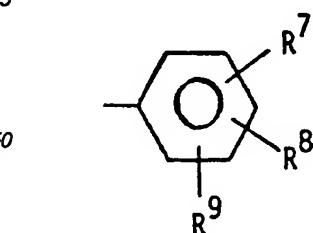


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, in which  
 R<sup>1</sup> represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl or cycloalkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the unsubstituted cyclic group; or an adamantyl group;  
 R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a lower alkoxy or halogen;  
 R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a phenylalkyl with 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group or a cycloalkyl-alkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the cyclic group and 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group;  
 n is an integer 0-6  
 R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl;  
 R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl;  
 R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or when n is 1-6 a hydroxyl group; or when n is 0 an amino, an alkylamino, or a dialkylamino group with 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups;  
 A represents an alkylene, optionally connected to, or interrupted by an optionally substituted hetero atom selected from O, S, and NR, wherein R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl, a phenylalkyl with 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group or a cycloalkyl-alkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the cyclic group and 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group; or an alkenylene  
 with the provisos that when  
 a) n is 0 and R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are all hydrogen, then the group A-R<sup>1</sup> is not 7-benzylamino or 7-(4'-methoxy)-benzylamino; and when  
 b) n is 1 and R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are all hydrogen, R<sup>2</sup> is 4-methyl, R<sup>6</sup> is ethyl, phenyl, benzyl, or (4'-methoxy)-phenyl then the group A-R<sup>1</sup> is not 7-benzylxy; and when  
 c) n is 0, R<sup>2</sup> is 4-methyl, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>6</sup> is phenyl, then the group A-R<sup>1</sup> is not 7-benzylxy.

2. A compound of the general formula I according to claim 1 wherein  
 R<sup>1</sup> represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group of the formula II

I

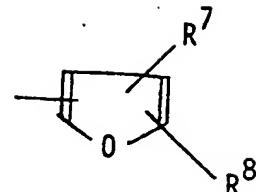
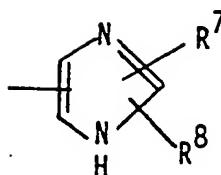
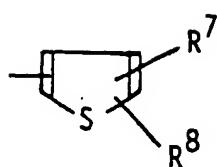
II



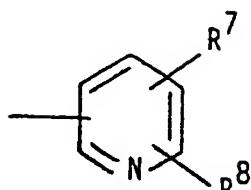
in which each of R<sup>7</sup> R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> independently represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl having up to 6 carbon atoms, a lower alkoxy having up to 6 carbon atoms, halogen, preferably chloro or fluoro, or a heterocyclic aryl group of one of the following formulas

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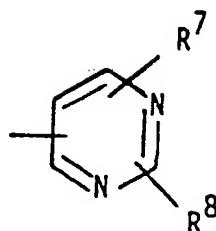
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or



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in which R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> have the meanings given above;

R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl with 1-6 carbon atoms, a lower alkoxy with 1-6 carbon atoms, chloro, bromo or fluoro;

R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are the same or different and represent hydrogen or a lower alkyl with 1-6 carbon atoms;

R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl with 1-6 carbon atoms, a hydroxyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group as defined above for R<sup>1</sup>, whereby R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are the same or different; n is an integer 0-6;

A represents an alkylene with up to 6 carbon atoms, optionally connected to or interrupted by an eventually substituted hetero atom selected from O, S and NR, wherein R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl with 1-6 carbon atoms; or an alkenylene with up to 6 carbon atoms.

3. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-, R<sup>1</sup> is phenyl, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are all hydrogen and n is 1.

4. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-, R<sup>1</sup> is phenyl, R<sup>3</sup> is methyl, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are all hydrogen and n is 1.

5. A pharmaceutical composition containing as active ingredient a compound according to any of claims 1-4.

6. A compound as defined in any of claims 1-4, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in inhibiting gastric acid secretion in mammals and man.

7. A compound as defined in any of claims 1-4, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as gastrointestinal cytoprotecting agent in mammals and man.

8. A compound as defined in any of claims 1-4, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of gastrointestinal inflammatory diseases in mammals and man.

9. Use of a compound of the general formula I

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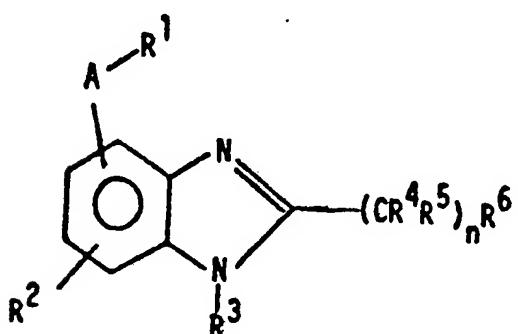
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I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, in which

R<sup>1</sup> represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl or cycloalkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the unsubstituted cyclic group; or an adamantyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a lower alkoxy or halogen;

R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a phenylalkyl with 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group or a

cycloalkyl-alkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the cyclic group and 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group;

n is an integer 0-6

R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl;

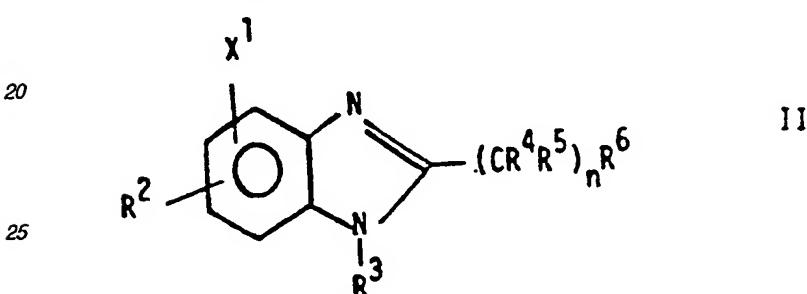
R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl;

R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or when n is 1-6 a hydroxyl group; or when n is 0 an amino, an alkylamino, or a dialkylamino group with 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups;

10 A represents an alkylene, optionally connected to, or interrupted by an optionally substituted hetero atom selected from O, S, and NR, wherein R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl, a phenylalkyl with 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group or a cycloalkyl-alkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the cyclic group and 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group; or an alkenylene in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition with inhibiting effect of gastric acid secretion.

15 10. Use of a compound as defined in claim 9 in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition with antiinflammatory effect on gastrointestinal inflammatory diseases.

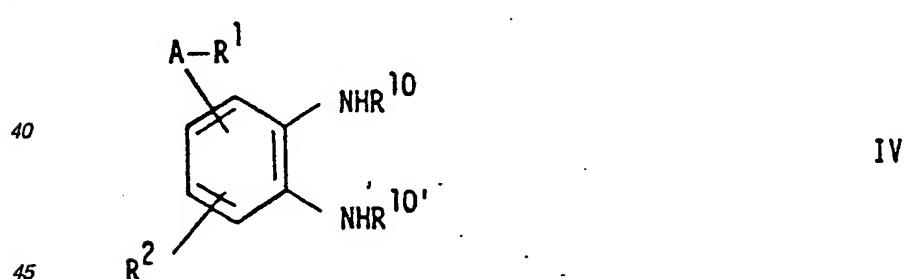
15 11. A process for the preparation of a compound of the formula I according to claim 1 by  
A. Reacting a compound of the general formula II



30 wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above with a compound of the formula III  
R<sup>1</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>X<sup>2</sup> III

35 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above, X<sup>1</sup> is -OH, -SH, or -NHR and X<sup>2</sup> is a leaving group, whereby a compound of the general formula I, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above and m is an integer 1-6 and A is -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>, -S(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub> or -NR(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>, is obtained;

B. Reacting a compound of the general formula IV

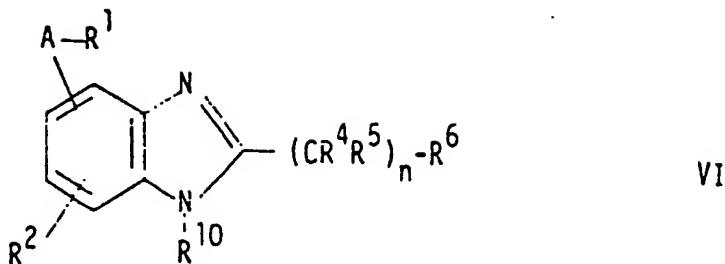


50 wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are as defined above, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>10'</sup> are the same or different and each is hydrogen, a lower alkyl group having up to 6 carbon atoms or a group or atom convertible to a lower alkyl group with the proviso that when one of R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>10'</sup> is a lower alkyl group or a group or atom convertible to a lower alkyl group the other of R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>10'</sup> is hydrogen

55 with a compound of the general formula V

R<sup>6</sup>(CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>)<sub>n</sub>COR<sup>11</sup> V

wherein R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and n are as defined above and R<sup>11</sup> is a leaving group or hydrogen, whereby a compound of the general formula VI

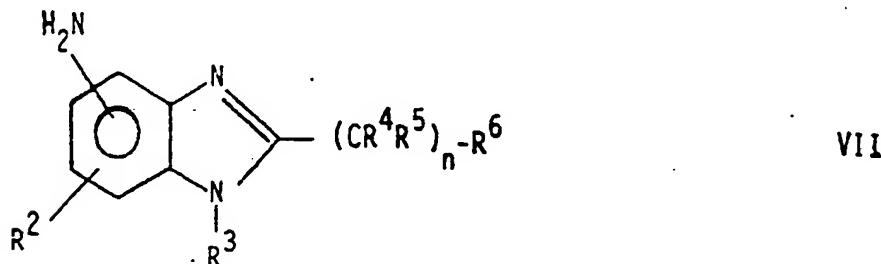


VI

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is formed and, if required, a nitrogen atom of the benzimidazole nucleus is alkylated and, if required, protecting groups are removed, to form a compound of the general formula I, and if required a salt or solvate thereof is formed; or

C. Reacting a compound of the general formula VII



VII

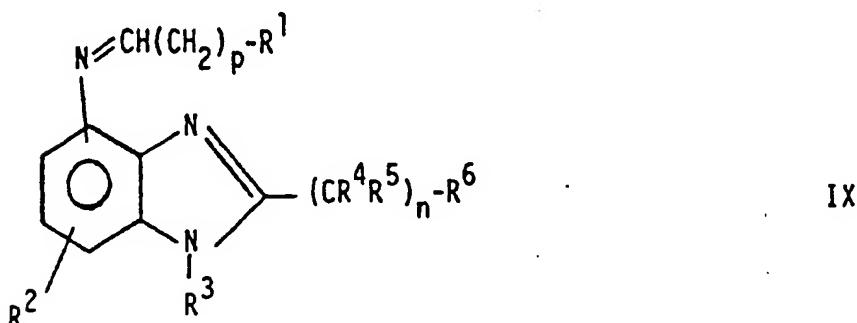
wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above with a compound of the general formula VIII

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VIII

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above and p is an integer 0-5 to form a compound of the general formula IX



IX

wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above, and whereafter the compound of the formula IX is hydrogenated to a compound of the general formula I, wherein A is -NR(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, n and m are as defined above.

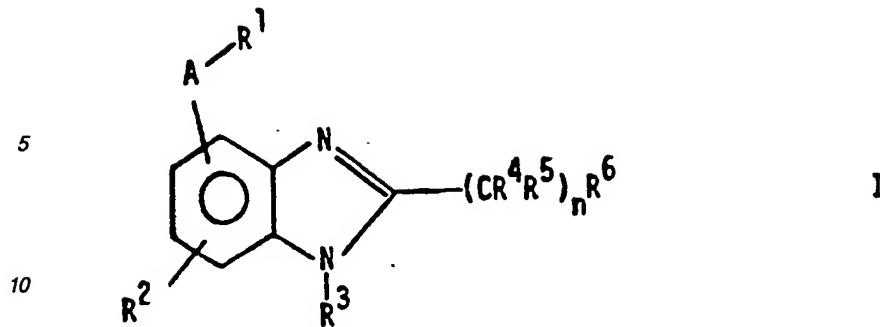
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Claims for the following contracting states: ES and GR

1. A process for the preparation of a compound of the general formula I

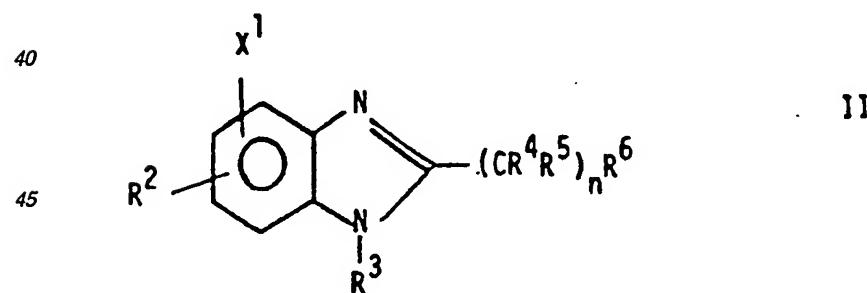
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15 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, in which  
 R<sup>1</sup> represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl or cycloalkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the  
 unsubstituted cyclic group; or an adamantyl group;  
 R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a lower alkoxy or halogen;  
 20 R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a phenylalkyl with 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group or a  
 cycloalkyl-alkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the cyclic group and 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group;  
 n is an integer 0-6  
 R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl;  
 R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl;  
 25 R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or when n is 1-6 a  
 hydroxyl group or when n is 0 an amino, an alkylamino or a dialkylamino group with 1-4 carbon atoms in  
 the alkyl groups;  
 A represents an alkylene, optionally connected to, or interrupted by an optionally substituted hetero atom  
 selected from O, S, and NR, wherein R is hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a phenylalkyl with 1-4 carbon atoms in  
 30 the alkyl group or a cycloalkyl-alkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the cyclic group and 1-4 carbon atoms  
 in the alkyl group; or an alkenylene  
 with the provisos that when  
 a) n is 0 and R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are all hydrogen, then the group A-R<sup>1</sup> is not 7-benzylamino or  
 35 7-(4'-methoxy)-benzylamino; and when  
 b) n is 1 and R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are all hydrogen, R<sup>2</sup> is 4-methyl, R<sup>6</sup> is ethyl, phenyl, benzyl, or  
 (4'-methoxy)-phenyl then the group A-R<sup>1</sup> is not 7-benzylxy; and when  
 c) n is 0, R<sup>2</sup> is 4-methyl, R<sup>3</sup> is hydrogen and R<sup>6</sup> is phenyl, then the group A-R<sup>1</sup> is not 7-benzylxy

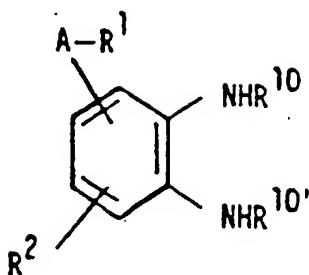
A. Reacting a compound of the general formula II



50 wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above with a compound of the formula III  
 R<sup>1</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>X<sup>2</sup> III  
 55 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is defined above, X<sup>1</sup> is -OH, -SH, or -NHR and X<sup>2</sup> is a leaving group, whereby a compound of  
 the general formula I, wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above and m is an integer 1-6 and A  
 is -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>, -S(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub> or -NR(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>, is obtained;  
 B. Reacting a compound of the general formula IV

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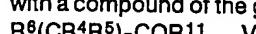
IV

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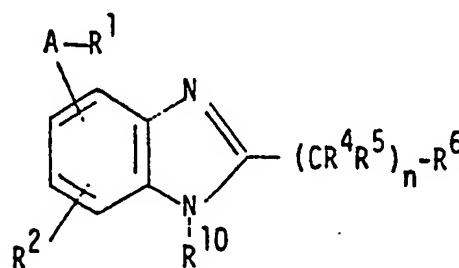
wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are as defined above, R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>10'</sup> are the same or different and each is hydrogen, a lower alkyl group having up to 6 carbon atoms or a group or atom convertible to a lower alkyl group with the proviso that when one of R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>10'</sup> is a lower alkyl group or a group or atom convertible to a lower alkyl group the other of R<sup>10</sup> and R<sup>10'</sup> is hydrogen with a compound of the general formula V

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wherein R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> and n are as defined above and R<sup>11</sup> is a leaving group or hydrogen, whereby a compound of the general formula VI

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VI

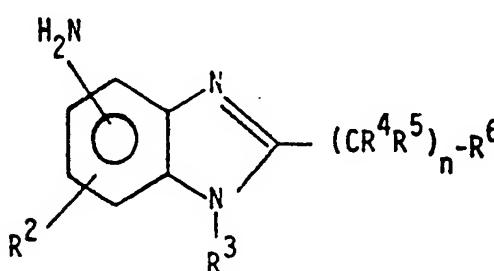
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is formed and, if required, a nitrogen atom of the benzimidazole nucleus is alkylated and, if required, protecting groups are removed, to form a compound of the general formula I, and if required, a salt or solvate thereof is formed; or

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C. Reacting a compound of the general formula VII



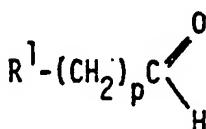
VII

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wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above with a compound of the general formula VIII

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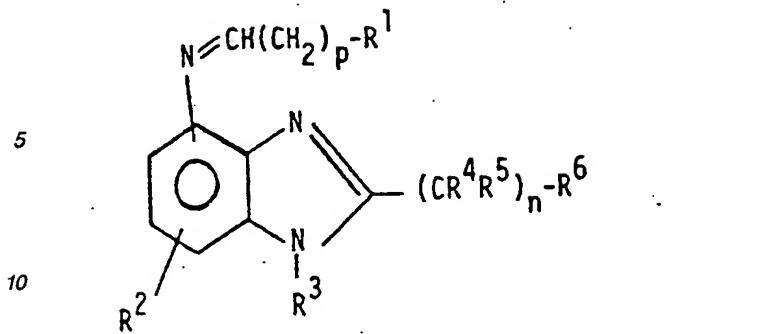
VIII

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wherein R<sup>1</sup> is as defined above and p is an integer 0-5 to form a compound of the general formula IX

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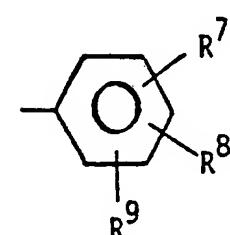
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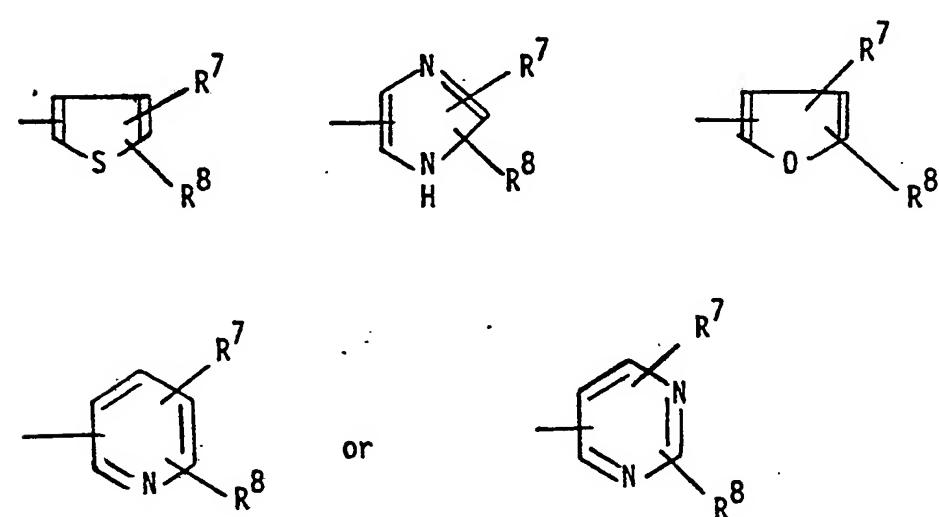
IX

wherein R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are as defined above, and whereafter the compound of the formula IX is hydrogenated to a compound of the general formula I, wherein A is -NR(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>- and R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup>, R<sup>6</sup>, n and m are as defined above.

2. A process according to claim 1 wherein in the compound of the general formula I R<sup>1</sup> represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group of the formula II



in which each of R<sup>7</sup>, R<sup>8</sup>, R<sup>9</sup> independently represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl having up to 6 carbon atoms, a lower alkoxy having up to 6 carbon atoms, halogen, preferably chloro or fluoro, or a heterocyclic aryl group of one of the following formulas



in which R<sup>7</sup> and R<sup>8</sup> have the meanings given above;  
 R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl with 1-6 carbon atoms, a lower alkoxy with 1-6 carbon atoms, chloro, bromo or fluoro;  
 R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are the same or different and represent hydrogen or a lower alkyl with 1-6 carbon atoms;  
 R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl with 1-6 carbon atoms, a hydroxyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group as defined above for R<sup>1</sup>, whereby R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are the same or different;  
 n is an integer 0-6;  
 A represents an alkylene with up to 6 carbon atoms, optionally connected to or interrupted by an eventually substituted hetero atom selected from O, S and NR, wherein R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl with 1-6 carbon atoms; or an alkenylene with up to 6 carbon atoms.

3. A process according to claim 1 wherein A is -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-, R<sup>1</sup> is phenyl, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are all hydrogen and n is 1.

4. A process according to claim 1 wherein A is -O-CH<sub>2</sub>-, R<sup>1</sup> is phenyl, R<sup>3</sup> is methyl, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> are all hydrogen and n is 1.

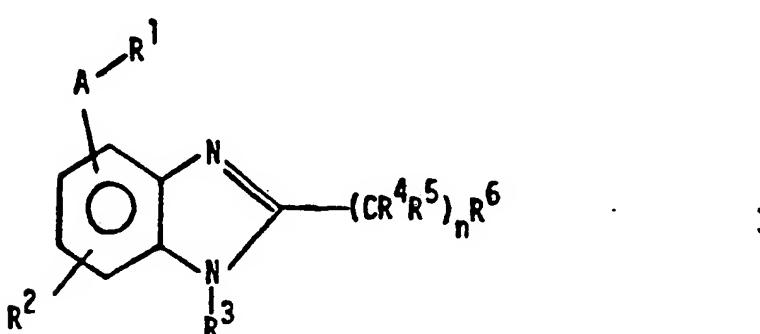
5. A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition characterized in that it contains a compound produced according to any of claims 1-4 as the active ingredient.

6. A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the compound of the formula I, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, is used in inhibiting gastric acid secretion in mammals and man.

10. A process according to claim 1; characterized in that the compound of the formula I, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, is used as gastrointestinal cytoprotecting agent in mammals and man.

15. A process according to claim 1, characterized in that the compound of the general formula I, or a therapeutically acceptable salt thereof, is used in the treatment of gastrointestinal inflammatory diseases in mammals and man.

9. Use of a compound of the general formula I



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, in which

30. R<sup>1</sup> represents a substituted or unsubstituted aryl or cycloalkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the unsubstituted cyclic group; or an adamantyl group;

R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a lower alkoxy or halogen;

35. R<sup>3</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a phenylalkyl with 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group or a cycloalkyl-alkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the cyclic group and 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group; n is an integer 0-6

R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl;

R<sup>5</sup> represents hydrogen or a lower alkyl;

40. R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen, a lower alkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group or when n is 1-6 a hydroxyl group; or when n is 0 an amino, an alkylamino, or a dialkylamino group with 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl groups;

A represents an alkylene, optionally connected to, or interrupted by an optionally substituted hetero atom selected from O, S, and NR, wherein R is hydrogen or a lower alkyl, a phenylalkyl with 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group or a cycloalkyl-alkyl group with 3-8 carbon atoms in the cyclic group and 1-4 carbon atoms in the alkyl group; or an alkenylene

45. in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition with inhibiting effect of gastric acid secretion.

10. Use of a compound as defined in claim 9 in the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition with antinflammatory effect on gastrointestinal inflammatory diseases.

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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	EP-A-111 993 (ELI LILLY AND COMPANY) see examples 6-9, 11, 20, 24-27, 48 -----	1-2, 5	C 07 D 235/06 C 07 D 401/12 A 61 K 31/415
X	EP-A-172 631 (THE BOOTS COMPANY PLC) see page 1, lines 1-11, examples on pages 4-6 -----	1-2, 5-8	
X	EP-A-178 413 (BEECHAM GROUP) see claim 1, page 2, lines 13-16 -----	1-2, 5	
X	DE-A-27 37 630 (BOEHRINGER MANNHEIM GMBH) see examples 15-17 -----	1-2, 5	
X	SE-B-346 321 (MERCK & CO) see claim 1 & DE-A-16 95 545 -----	1-2, 5	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
X	DE-A-25 05 913 (TYORTYALIAN, CARLOS) see claim 1 -----	1-8	C 07 D 235/00 C 07 D 401/00 A 61 K 31/00
X	SE-B-418 966 (AB HÄSSLE) see claims -----	1-8	
X	SE-A-7804231-4 (AB HÄSSLE) see claims 1 and 5 -----	1-8	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	
STOCKHOLM	22-01-1988	TANNERFELDT A.	
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone	T : theory or principle underlying the invention		
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P : intermediate document	& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		